(d) the steps Government have taken to ensure timely payment to the labourers of NBCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) It is not true that the salaries to hundreds of workers of NBCC have not been paid. However, salaries to some workers have remained unpaid for period ranging from two to three months.

(b) and (c) NBCC is a contracting organisation and undertakes Civil Engineering Construction projects of various Govt. Departments and Public Sector Undertakings spread all over India and abroad. NBCC meets its expenses from the funds realised from the clients against the work executed on their projects. On account of delay in release of payments by some clients, the payment of salaries to the workers occasionally gets delayed.

(d) As NBCC is passing through a liquidity crunch, the Government has taken the following steps to improve its financial health and enable it to pay salaries to its workers on time:—

(i) The Government has awarded/is awarding NBCC large number of Central Govt. projects for the development of North East States as well as projects related to the rehabilitation of school buildings in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat under Prime Minister's Relief fund and under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Schemes.

(ii) The Government is also providing necessary assistance to NBCC for realisation of its dues for various domestic projects from various Govt. Departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(iii) Government has allotted land to NBCC for development of Real Estate Projects as commercial ventures which will provide the Company higher returns.

Scheme of payment under DDA's Scheme for retiring persons

465. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased refer to answer to Unstarred Question 134 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 2001 and state:

(a) the number of applications received and the number of persons who have been allotted flats, category and area-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the draw of lots of flats the scheme of payment was arbitrarily changed from hire-purchase to cash down;

(c) if so, the reasons for the change in payment scheme which has spoiled the vary essence of the scheme and put untimely financial burden on retiring persons; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to provide relief to retiring persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As per the information furnished by the DDA, the number of applications received and the allotments made under the Special Housing Registration Scheme, 2001 for Retiring Government Servants are as under:—

	Total Applications received	Allotments made
MIG	1465	400
LIG	549	544
Janta	60	59

However, these allotments were made in Dwarka and Rohini.

(b) The Delhi Development Authority has informed that the Scheme was opened on 1.7.2001 and closed on 31.8.2001. Prior to the closing of registration, DDA had released a Press notification on 8.7.2001 that appeared in the leading newspapers about the loan facilities from the Central Bank of India and change of mode of payment from hire purchase to cash down. All the applications that were received by the DDA, were considered and a list of eligible applications were displayed on the Notice Board of DDA after giving due publicity and objections were invited before 7 days of the scheduled date of draw.

(c) The DDA has informed that the mode of payment was changed to give relief to the allottees. As per DDA's hire-purchased scheme, an allottee is required to make down payment of full cost of land plus 30% construction cost. The balance amount was required to be paid in monthly instalments @16.5% (present rate is 15%) interest per annum on monthly rest basis. As against this, the Central Bank of India agreed to finance upto 75% of the total cost of the flat at an interest rate of 12.50% per annum. One more reason for

modifying the payment plan was that the DDA's hire-purchase scheme for the retiring Governments servants was restricted to a maximum of 60 months while the Banks were providing longer terms for repayment.

(d) For the benefit of the allottees, an arrangement had been made by the DDA with the Central Bank of India for financing the flats allotted under the Scheme.

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†WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 5TH MARCH, 2002

Promotion of Satriya Dance

*61. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 505 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 2000, and state:

(a) the steps taken to promote Satriya Dance and achievements made so far after its declaration as Indian classical Dance form;

(b) the programmes undertaken to publish photographic profile, literature and creation of training cum research centre on Satriya Dance at Guwahati, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai including creation of a separate academy on Satriya Dance;

(c) the financial allocation made, executing agency entrusted, item-wise;

(d) whether 'Borgeet' an important component of Satriya Music is grouped under classical category;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (f) The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) does not any more follow the policy of formally declaring any art as classical or otherwise. SNA has recognized the dance and music forms of Satriya as an important part of the cultural heritage of our country. SNA has taken steps to promote and preserve

†The sitting of the Rajya Sabha of Tuesday, the 5th March, 2002 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok Sabha. Answers to questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 7th March, 2002.